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SECURITY INFORMATION

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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Reports Division  
THRU : Chief, Materials Division, OMR  
FROM : Chief, Food and Agriculture Branch, OMR

DATE: 4 August 1952

SUBJECT: Agriculture, Planning Manual, Vol. III, Reviewed by A/Br, M/D.

1. General: The general reaction of Analysts in the Food and Agriculture Branch who have read subject report is that it is "Amateurish" and has some factual weaknesses. It is realized, however, that preparing a handbook of this nature represents a new endeavor and requires original thinking and a detailed knowledge of a rather broad field.

The comments and suggestions offered by the Food and Agriculture Branch are those of Agricultural technicians and not of specialists on questions and procedures concerning sabotage.

2. Accuracy of Contents: Several statements in the Agricultural section are of questionable accuracy and in other cases procedures suggested are somewhat unrealistic if not completely impracticable. Some examples are as follows:

a) On page 1, it is stated that the Russian people exist on a very low-calorie ration and that widespread starvation is fairly common. Actually, on a calorie basis, diets in the USSR compare favorably with Europe as a whole and are higher than average calorie intakes in several European, Asiatic, African, and Middle East countries. There have been only two periods in recent years (1922 and 1932) when widespread starvation occurred. (The starvation that reportedly occurs in slave labor camps is probably not due to a shortage of food in the USSR as a whole.) Perhaps the statement in question could be modified to indicate that diets are of poor quality by Western standards and that malnutrition is fairly common.

b) The last three sentences of the first paragraph on page 1 are not clear. Is it considered desirable to starve people who are friendly to the US? It is true that industrial needs for food items take priority over food needs of the population, etc.

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